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### Nyack Heritage, A Semester of Inspiration

My journey at Nyack College (Alliance University) began back during the fall of 2019. When I had originally visited the Manhattan Campus, I remember during the visit, going to the fifth floor and upon exiting from the elevator, witnessing several oversized black and white photos. The advisor that I had at the time gave me a briefing of of the pictures which included A.B. Simpson. Looking back at the vivid memory that I have embedded in my memory, I remember the advisor stating that A.B. Simpson was about Equality and how he wanted for all people, all walks of life to be able to hear the gospel. Now we are here presently, three years later and what a honor and privilege it has been to learn the journey of A.B. Simpson.

This past semester, Dr. Nehlsen led our class with detailed and extensive information about the rich history of Nyack College, and its founder. We learned in the beginning of the semester at a young age of nine or ten years old, Simpson read the biography of John Williams and was determined from that point on that he would become a minister. That Simpson did and so much more!

Life was not always easy for Simpson, we read how during his adolescence, Simpson had a near death experience. Although Simpson's life was spared, he did have chronic health effects including heart and lung complications for a good majority of his life. What I admire about

Simpson is that he did not allow his handicaps to keep him from reaching his dream. He kept focused and his faith and trust only increased.

Simpson began his ministry at Knox Church in Louisville, KY. Simpson developed his philosophy with strong focus on preaching and prayer meetings. We also see where Simpson interest in mission work evolved. We see where the interest of missions re-emerge once again when while in New York, Simpson was asked by a reporter when he thought Christ would return to earth. During the late 1800's there was social unrest, and a lot of other contributing factors that may have prompted this question. Simpson eloquently replied "The Gospel of the kingdom of God shall be preached in all the world for all nations. Then the end will be. ". During his time in New York Simpson pastored the 13th street Presbyterian church. Although Simpson stay at the church was short lived, I admire how he stood up against the church and kept his value on infant baptism and also standing firm in his belief on divine healing. We learned this semester that Simpson was divinely healed during a conference that he attended. I'm confused to as why the Presbyterian Church had a issue with Simpson speaking of the miracle healing of God. After all we see this mentioned throughout the Bible. Once again, Simpson did not allow this setback discourage him, his faith grew, and his journey increased .

I'm highly impressed with the accomplishments that Simpson completed during his lifetime. Through his obedience, keeping strong in faith, and trusting in our great God in Heaven, the Lord paved the way for such accomplishments such as Berach Home, the Gospel Tabernacle, the first Bible training institute (1882) and establishing the Alliance Missionaries.

I personally feel that we all go though different seasons in our life, just as A.B. Simpson experienced. There can definitely be set backs that can put us back. But we can not allow those set backs to detour us from reaching our goal, As for myself, I like to say I'm a late bloomer.

I'm in my mid 40's. To me, age is not nothing but a number. I have the whole rest of my life to live. It did take me a minute to figure out what exactly I wanted to do. I remember when I registered here at Nyack Initially, I knew that one of my strongest traits and something that I feels rewarded for is helping people. I love speaking about the word to others, besides listening to others testimonies and sharing my own personal journey/testimony in hope that it will help benefit others. After praying over a period of time and doing research I found myself very much drawn to the area of Chaplainry. I love the fact that I would be working in an area where people are vulnerable and needs guidance. I do that already with my current employer where I guide and refer seniors and their families on what would be appropriate for next stage in their life. During this time I will share with the families not to fear, but to trust in God and hold his hand tight during this journey and he will see them through. I'm excited. I don't know which sector I will eventually end up in. One thing is for sure, I will not continue this journey doing things the way that I see fit. I'm going to follow the measures that A.B. Simpson and those who were before and after Simpson lived by and that is to surrender, grow in faith, and put our full trust in God. By following God and by listening carefully to his instruction, we know that the journey will end far greater than we can even imagine!